

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC HEARING  
JUNE 24, 2014 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER  
AMENDMENT OF ZONING FEE STRUCTURE**

President Slifka called the Hearing to order at 12:56 a.m.

President Slifka: I am going to call the Public Hearing to order. This is the 7:25 p.m. Public Hearing Ordinance amending fee structures. This is an ordinance amending fee structure for planning, zoning, subdivision and inland wetlands applications as established in the West Hartford Ordinances. A roll call please, Ms. Labrot?

Present were Councilors Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Harry Captain, Leon Davidoff, Burke Doar, Denise Hall, Clare Kindle, and President Scott Slifka.

Councilor Judy Casperson was not present.

President Slifka: Okay, Mr. Alair, go ahead.

Mr. Alair: At last we can talk about what you really came here to talk about tonight. You have a substitute ordinance in front of you amending our zoning fee structure. We haven't amended our zoning fees since 2000, and as part of the budget process this year, the town manager asked all department heads to look for ways to improve the budgets and the bottom lines, and our Town Planner noticed a couple of areas that...where we were perhaps lagging behind. If you look at the second page of the ordinance in front of you, and you do have a substitute, by the way. I'll explain that in a minute. We are raising our zoning permit fee from \$40 to \$75, and we're creating a new type of fee, and that's for a zoning compliance certificate or letter, and that's \$30. We've seen an increase in a number of requests from out of state. Usually it's lenders who ask us to do their due diligence for them by writing a letter saying, you know, the property you're loaning the money on is in zoning compliance, and so we're gonna charge a fee for that from now on because it does take staff time. The substitute that you have in front of you is on the third page. We are creating a new type of fee. We're going to start charging a fee in addition to any other application fee for the—to offset the cost of publishing notices of the hearings. And so it's a...it's a hundred dollar...\$150 fee for any application requiring a public hearing, and the substitute is we put in a provision that says that if the applicant, for whatever reason, requests that the hearing be postponed and we have to republish, then they owe us another \$150, and as it was originally written there was some question about whether it was clear enough, so the substitute was intended to clean that up. That's it.

President Slifka: Okay, thank you, Mr. Alair. No one...no one's here to sign up. Is there any discussion, questions from the council? Okay, seeing none, then reading for the record, letter dated June 16, 2014, from Town Planning and Zoning Commission recommending approval. Letter dated June 10, 2014, from Capital Regional Council of Governments finding no apparent conflict with regional plans and policies or concerns of neighboring towns. If there is nothing further from my colleagues, we will close the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing was closed at 12:59 a.m.

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Essie S. Labrot  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

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